

PATENT

Applicants respectfully petition for a one month extension of time in which to respond to the office action which was mailed on April 24, 2002. A check in the amount of \$55.00 is enclosed for the petition fee. In response to the Office Action mailed on February 26, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please rewrite Claim 8 as follows:

8. A network computer server system for controlling a plurality of network access lines to provide subscriber access to a computer network, the server system comprising:

an access line interface for partitioning the plurality of network access lines as first stage lines and second stage lines:

a processor operatively coupled to the access line interface, the processor being operatively coupled to computer readable media encoded with instructions to perform the steps of:

determining an available number of second stage lines;

queuing arriving subscribers bidding for network access in the first stage lines and periodically admitting at least a portion of the arriving subscribers into the second stage lines based on respective bid amounts and the availability of second stage lines;

determining a spot price of the resource based on at least one arrival subscriber not admitted;

→ DNT AAVE IN
SERIES 1917

PATENT

determining a reservation fee for secured access to the network for the admitted subscribers to secure future network access at a given bid price;

determining whether a subscriber has accepted the reservation fee and
controlling the access line interface to operatively couple that subscriber to the network via a
 second stage line as a reserved subscriber;

cl Cont'd
 determining whether a subscriber has rejected the reservation fee and
controlling the access line interface to operatively couple that subscriber to the network via a
 second stage line as an unreserved subscriber;

controlling the access line interface to disconnect from the network non-reserved subscribers whose bid prices are below the spot price; and

activating a reservation of reserved subscribers whose bid price is below the spot price, and controlling the access line interface to maintain network access for the reserved subscriber for a duration of the reservation; and

a memory device operatively coupled to the processor, the memory device for storing a data base of subscriber account data.